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CIA Hiding 51 Documents Vital to Probe--DA Aide

By ROSS YOCKEY

A special investigator for Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison charged today that the Central Intelligence Agency has concealed at least 51 official documents vital to an investigation of President John F. Kennedy's assassination.

Tom Bethell, assigned by Garrison to research the National Archives in Washington, D. C., told the States-Item that from the list of concealed information it is apparent that the CIA knew "a great deal" about Lee Harvey Oswald before the assassination.

The Warren Commission concluded that Oswald acted alone in killing the president, but Garrison contends that there was a conspiracy, hatched in New Orleans, of which Oswald was a part.

"THERE ARE 1,555 Commission Documents listed in the archives," Bethell said. "Of these, only about 1,200 are unclassified and available to the public."

Bethell is a London schoolteacher who came to New Orleans earlier this year to study the city's traditional jazz. He became intrigued

with Garrison's investigation, said Bethell, and asked the district attorney if he could assist in the probe.

Garrison signed him on and sent him to the archives.

Bethell returned last week after spending more than a month in the nation's capital and compiled his notes. Today he showed one of his memoranda to the States-Item.

IN THE MEMORANDUM, Bethell lists 29 commission documents which he selected as being of special interest to Garrison. He said he chose them from a total list of 51 classified files on the assassination.

Among the most significant of these, Bethell said, were

DA Aide Cites Hidden CIA Data on Oswald

Continued from Page 1

documents whose titles indicated that the CIA had extensive information on Oswald before the assassination, that Oswald may have had access to secret U-2 aircraft files, that the CIA knew more about Jack Ruby (the man who shot Oswald) than it revealed publicly, and that the CIA failed to turn over some information to the Warren Commission.

In support of his allegation that the CIA knew about Oswald prior to the assassination, which occurred in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963, Bethell cited a paragraph from one of the unclassified files.

AMONG THE AVAILABLE documents, he said, there appears a notarized statement by State Department officer James D. Crowley, which says:

"The first time I remember learning of Oswald's existence was when I received copies of a telegraphic message, dated Oct. 10, 1963, from the Central Intelligence Agency, which contained information pertaining to his current activities."

Said Bethell in his report:

"THE CONTENTS OF THIS message apparently did not reach the Warren Commission because there are no commission documents originating from the CIA dated prior to the assassination, so we cannot request this information by document number, but it would be interesting to know what the CIA knew about Oswald six weeks before the assassination."

Bethell said that some of the classified documents are labeled "S" for "Secret" and "TS" for "Top Secret," but he does not know what the difference might be.

Apparently, he added, there is some degree of secrecy to all the classified documents, even the unlabeled ones, since they all remain unavailable

to the public.

HERE IS BETHELL'S LIST of the titles of 29 classified commission documents from the CIA, all of which he feels may have some bearing on Garrison's investigation. (Each is preceded by its commission document number.):

CD 931—Oswald's access to information about the U-2. (S)

CD 1054—Information on Jack Ruby and associates. (S)

CD 674—Information given to the Secret Service but not yet to the Warren Commission. (S)

CD 871—Photos of Oswald in Russia. (S)

CD 321—Chronology of Oswald in USSR. (S)

CD 680—Appendix to CD 321. (S)

CD 691—Appendix A to CD 321. (S)

CD 818—Revisions of CD 321. (S)

CD 692—Reproduction of official CIA dossier on Oswald. (S)

CD 1216—Memo from Helms (CIA Director Richard Helms) entitled "Lee Harvey Oswald." (S)

CD 1273—Memo from Helms re. apparent inconsistencies in information provided by CIA. (S)

CD 935—Role of Cuban Intelligence Service in processing visa application. (TS)

CD 1551—Conversations between Cuban president and ambassador. (TS)

CD 347—Activity of Oswald in Mexico City. (S)

CD 384—Activity of Oswald in Mexico City. (S)

CD 528—Re. allegations Oswald interviewed by CIA in Mexico City. (S)

CD 426—Interrogation of Silvia Duran in Mexico City. (S)

CD 726—Actions of Duran after first interrogation. (S)

CD 1000—Mexican Interro-

gation of Gilberto Alvaredo. (S)

CD 1287—Re. Oswald and affidavit concerning cropped picture. (S)

CD 698—Reports of travel and activities of Oswald and Marina. (S)

CD 631—Re. CIA dissemination of information on Oswald. (S)

CD 708—Reply to questions posed by State Department. (S)

CD 1012—George and Jeanne DeMohrenschildt. (S)

CD 1222—Statements of George DeMohrenschildt re. assassination. (S)

CD 943—Allegations of Pfc. Eugene Dinkin re. assassination plot. (S)

CD 971—Telephone calls to U.S. embassy, Canberra (Australia), re. planned assassination. (S)

CD 1089—Letter re. assassination sent to Costa Rican embassy. (S)

CD 1041—Allegations regarding Intelligence Training School in Minsk (USSR). (S)

Some of the persons and incidents referred to in the documents' titles are familiar to students of the 26-volume

Warren Report, but some are entirely new.

It is not known, for instance, what access Oswald may have had to the secret U-2 files, which involved the controversial spy planes that flew over Russia in the late days of the Eisenhower administration.

There has been speculation, however, that electronics work for the project may have been done at Atsugi Air Force Base in Japan where Oswald served as a Marine before his defection to Russia.

RUBY, WHO DIED OF cancer early this year, was cleared by the Warren Commission of any CIA or foreign government connections. In his investigation, however, Garrison theorizes Ruby may have had both, and, in fact, he has charged Ruby was a partner in the alleged conspiracy.

Oswald's Mexico City trip the summer before the assassination has been labeled by Garrison as having played a key role in the alleged plot. The CIA has never admitted interviewing Oswald there.

Silvia Duran is a Mexican woman who worked in the Cuban Embassy in Mexico City. She was the first one to whom Oswald spoke on his visit to the embassy.

SILVIA DURAN IS QUOT-ED extensively in the Warren report, but apparently some part of her testimony has been withheld from public scrutiny.

Gilberto Alvaredo, probably a Mexican, was not mentioned in the 26 volumes, nor was Pfc. Eugene Dink, who apparently claimed to have information about a plot.

The "cropped picture" referred to in CD 1287 may refer to Commission Exhibit 237, labeled in the report only as "photo of an unidentified man."

Garrison charges the picture was given to the commission when it asked for a picture taken by the CIA of Oswald and another man coming out of the Cuban ambas-

sy in Mexico City.

GARRISON SUBPENAED the alleged Oswald photograph from Washington because, he said, the "other man" in the picture is vital to his investigation. A CIA official replied, however, that an intensive search of CIA files could reveal no such picture.

The DeMohrenschildts were prominent in Dallas' Russia community. They took Oswald and his wife under their wing when the couple returned to the United States from the Soviet Union. Some of their testimony is included in the Warren Report.

Nothing has filtered down to the public concerning either the Canberra phone calls or the letter to the Costa Rican embassy, both of which could have had some effect on the commission's one-assassin conclusion. Neither has there been any mention of a spy school in Minsk, where Oswald spent a good deal of his time in Russia.

BETHELL SAID THAT after spending long hours digging through the archives, he has divided the commission documents into three classifications: Group A—completely unclassified; Group B—partially classified, and Group C—completely classified.

About 300 documents are still classified, he stated, and the remaining are divided about equally between the completely available and the partially hidden.

Many of the Group B documents, he said, are hundreds of pages long, but some of their pages are missing from the files.

One large FBI report he recalls in particular is "about five inches thick and some 750 pages long. Thirty-six of the pages, though are missing." 75

ONE OF THE PERSONS dealt with extensively in those 36 pages, Bethell noted, is David William Ferrie, the now-deceased former airline pilot, who, according to Garrison, plotted with Ruby, Oswald and New Orleans businessman Clay Shaw to as-

sassinate the president.

Of those Garrison has named, three are dead. The fourth, Shaw, the retired manager of the International Trade Mart, is awaiting trial on the conspiracy charge.

Garrison himself said he is highly interested in the documents on Bethell's list.

Asked whether he would attempt to subpoena the classified files, the district attorney replied, "I can't say yet. We'll just have to wait and see."